

The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 11, 2004

1. The Mayor's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) convened on May 11, 2004, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:25 AM by the President, COL(R) Thom Tuckey. Members in attendance were:

LTC(R) Jim Daskal
COL(R) William Mannel
COL(R) Thom Tuckey

Mr. Earnest Johnson
Mr. Terry Smith

A new member joined the committee at this meeting: CSM(R) Jim Hussey.

2. Minutes. The committee reviewed the draft of the minutes from the April 13 meeting, a few changes were noted, and the draft was approved.

3. Old Business.

a. Veterans Groups Dinner. Planning continued for the next issues/update dinner for the representatives of local veterans organizations. The date for the dinner was set for 8 November, and LTC(R) Daskal reported that the dinner would be held at American Legion Post #63. He had set a personal goal of having 200 in attendance, and he estimated that the cost of the meal would be \$5.50 - \$5.75 per meal.

b. Recognition Event for Formerly Deployed Servicemembers. Plans were further discussed for this event intended to recognize and honor all servicemembers who had been deployed from the CSRA. The event was being organized by the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce in coordination with the CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon, Columbia County, and Mayor Bob Young, and was to be held in conjunction with an Augusta Greenjackets game. COL(R) Tuckey reported that the Signal Corps Band and the Fort Gordon Color Guard already had this event on their calendars. The MVAC discussed the possibilities of including veterans-group representatives in the ceremony. LTC(R) Daskal was alerted that his assistance might be needed for contacting the representatives of local veterans groups. CSM(R) Hussey was going to be working on a complete list of all units that had been deployed from the area.

c. CARES Commission. The final report of the Veterans Administration's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission had finally been approved, and the Augusta VA Medical Center (VAMC) fared well in the report. No adverse affects were indicated for the Augusta facilities, but Mr. Johnson did indicate that the VAMC would be looking at future plans for the outlying buildings in the VAMC "uptown" location. There was also discussion of a new Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Athens of which the VAMC would have oversight.

d. Website Update. LTC(R) Daskal reported that he had coordinated with Mr. Justin Pauly of the Mayor's office, to get the MVAC members' names updated on the MVAC website. Mr. Smith said that he would ensure that Mr. Pauly received copies of the MVAC minutes, for posting on the website.

e. Potential Resource Sharing for Guard and Reserve Units. COL(R) Tuckey reported that he had met with the commanders of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Augusta, and they were

enthusiastic about the possibilities of using Fort Gordon's ranges and other training facilities and programs (e.g., training in nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare procedures). The MVAC discussed further the potential merits of holding a meeting/briefing for representatives of all area Reserve and National Guard units that use or might potentially use Fort Gordon facilities and services for training purposes. Not only would this provide valuable information about potential partnering opportunities with Fort Gordon, it would also foster a very valuable dialog among the Reserve and National Guard units, so that they might better partner among themselves.

4. New Business.

Job-Search Services for Veterans. The MVAC discussed the continuing need for effective ways for businesses to publicize their job opportunities to veterans, for veterans to disseminate their resumes for consideration by businesses, and for businesses to have ready access to the resumes of veterans who might be potential employees. COL(R) Tuckey planned to follow up on work being done to develop software programs for these purposes, and Mr. Smith promised to arrange for the MVAC to receive a briefing on the services available at Fort Gordon (and elsewhere) through the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP). (The MVAC had had a thorough ACAP briefing and tour of the Fort Gordon ACAP facility a few years ago, but much of the MVAC membership had changed by May 2004, and it was agreed that an update briefing would be beneficial.)

5. Other Discussion.

a. Visit to Washington. COL(R) Tuckey reported that he had had a very beneficial visit to Washington, D.C., recently, during which he met individually with Senators Miller and Chambliss and Representatives Burns, Norwood, and Isakson. He also lunched in the Senators Dining Room with the Chiefs of Staff for Senators Miller and Chambliss. All of the Congressmen indicated a desire to visit Fort Gordon in the immediate future.

b. Promotion. It was noted that BG Jan Hicks would be promoted to Major General on June 2, 2004.

6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for June 8, 2004, at 8:20 AM, in Room 802 of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, May 12, 2004:

Terence Smith
Secretary
Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

CF: Mayor Young
COL Henderson, Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Ms. Pat Buchholz, Office of the Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon
Each active MVAC member